(d) whether National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has been granted permission to import edible oils in 1995-96 at the concessional duty of 20 per cent for the Public Distribution System; if so, whether NDDB has validated its commitment for the current fiscal year; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The prices of "Dhara" brand groundnut oil in Delhi as on 19.4.95 are as follows:—

Double Filtered Groundnut Oil	1 litre tetra brick	Rs. 47.00
	1 litre pouch	Rs. 45.00
Refined Groundnut Oil	1 litre tetra brick	Rs. 56 00

(b) At present there is a gap of nearly five to six lakh tonnes between the estimated demand and availability of indigenous edible oils in the country. Import of 1.07 lakh tonnes of RBD Palmolein valued at Rs. 198.94 crores was made by the State Trading Corporation (STC) for the Public Distribution System during 1994-95. The STC has been authorised to import 1.5 lakh tonnes of palmolein during 1995-96.

(c) The import of all edible oils other than Coconut Oil, Palm Kernel Oil, RBD Palm Oil and RBD Palm Stearin has been allowed under OGL.

(d) At present, STC is the only agency for import of edible oil for the PDS. The imports made by NDDB are for open market sale. From the year 1994-95 onwards and till date NDDB has been permitted to import 3.00 lakh tonnes of edible oils out of which NDDB has contracted a quantity of about 1.84 lakh tonnes and received a quantity of about 1.34 lakh tonnes as on 19.4.95.

भारतीय वनस्पति उत्पादों द्वारा तेल बोर्ड की स्थापना के सुझाव संबंधी ज्ञापन

3045. **श्री राम जेठमलानी** : क्या नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भारतीय वनस्पति उत्पादक संघ ने हाल ही में सरकार को एक ज्ञापन दिया है, जिसमें सुझाव दिया गया है कि देश में एक तेल बोर्ड स्थापित किया जाए ।

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या इस ज्ञापन में उक्त बोर्ड की स्थापना के औचित्य भी बताये गए हैं ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो उनका ब्यौरा क्या है;

(घ) क्या इस संबंध में सरकार ने कोई निर्णय ले लिया है;

(ङ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(च) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

नागरिक पूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री बूटा सिंह) : (क) से (ग) भारतीय वनस्पति उत्पादक संघ ने खाद्य तिलहनों/वनस्पति तेलों, जिनमें वनस्पति घी शामिल है, से सम्बन्धित पांच मुद्दों के बारे में सरकार को एक ज्ञापन दिया है तथा तिलहनों/वनस्पति तेलों और वनस्पति हेतु एक "तेल बोर्ड" की स्थापना करना उनमें से एक है । यह सुझाव दिया गया है कि उक्त बोर्ड की एक समेकित नीति अपनाकर

तथा उद्योग के प्रत्येक खण्ड और सरकार/अन्य अभिकरणों के बीच पूर्ण समन्वय सुनिश्चित करके तेल उद्योग के तीन खण्डों अर्थात् जिसमें उत्पादन, तेल निष्कर्षण उद्योग और तेल प्रसंस्करण उद्योग का तेजी से विकास किया जा सकता है ।

(घ) से (च) वर्तमान प्रस्ताव केवल वैचारिक रूप में है तथा इसमें तेल बोर्ड के ढांचे और उसके कार्यों इत्यादि के सम्बन्ध में कोई ब्यौरा नहीं है । भारतीय वनस्पति उत्पादक संघ से इस विषय पर एक विस्तृत टिप्पण प्रस्तुत करने का अनुरोध किया गया है, ताकि सरकार इस प्रस्ताव की जांच कर सके ।

Rise in price of rice in FPS shops

3046. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the rise in price of rice in recent months in F.P.S.;

(b) whether Government have proposed adequate and necessary measures to bring down the price rise: and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c) The Central Issue Price of rice for the Public Distribution System were last revised with effect from 1.2.1994. During recent months, no increase in the Central Issue Price of rice has been effected. Central Government has allowed the Food Corporation of India to sell rice as well as wheat in the open market for moderating open market price and for ensuring greater availability of foodgrains in the market. Adequate allocations for the Public Distribution System are also being made taking into account the demands received from various States and U.Ts.

Powers to MPs to check Public Distribution Shops

3047. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Members of Parliament are to be given the surprise check powers of Public Distribution Shops in order to instill strict vigil over day to day distribution to the public;

(b) if so, what are the details of such empowering by Government;

(c) if not, why not; and

(d) will Government think over giving supervisory authority of MPs to keep a vigil watch?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Powers to enter, search and size essential commodities from the premises of Fair Price Shops are exercisable only by officers of the Government as per delegation under the Essential Commodities Act. The operational responsibility for actual distribution of commodities to the consumers under the Public Distribution System is that of the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.